

Possible Titles:

- Henry David Thoreau Enters Politics
- Thoreau as the Cabinet: 2017- Nature in the Modern World?

Possible Ideas for Plot:

- Couple months later- media talks about HDT and Trump and how they like the harmony between their contrasting personalities and how this collaboration between the two is the greatest thing for America rn; HDT and Trump realize that them working together is perhaps the best idea. Agree to work together but still hate each other.
 - Time runs out..... 2020 election!!! 50-50 split causes both HDT and Trump to lose. Kanye becomes Prez

Possible Props:

Characters:

- Trump- Hava
- HDT- Shreya
- Pence- Andrea
- Attendant- Praneet
- Newscaster 1- Hava
- Newscaster 2- Andrea
- Newscaster 3- Praneet
- Newscaster 4- Shreya
- Announcer- Andrea
- Person 1- Shreya
- Person 2- Praneet

It's a Trumped-Up Thoreau-down

Scene starts with Trump and his 3 advisors. 3 advisors throw down papers onto Trump's desk

Trump: What's this? Tell me what this is! You're fired if you don't tell me what this is right now!

Advisor 1: No need to fire us, sir. We're leaving!

Trump: You're all losers!

Play "Meanwhile" Sign: Meanwhile, in a Big City

HDT: **comes out of the woods, looks around him. 3 other people are making siren sounds and holding signs such as "traffic" "pollution" "cities" etc. Looks horrified* What is this? *sees a man on the bench and walks towards him. Waves his hand, confused, in front of his face* Sir. Sir, I have a question!*

Person 1: **takes off his headphones and looks up, also confused* Dude, get out of my face?*

HDT: What is the year, sir?

Person 1: Uh...2017? **scoots away from him**

HDT: How can that be?...last year it was 1854.... **stops and thinks, his expression slowly dawning in horror*--heavens above, it's been more than a year!*

Person 1: **starts to laugh* Dude, how high are you right now? Drink some water and take a chill pill. *puts headphones back on**

HDT: **shakes his head in horror* This is...this is modern America. Look at it! This grotesqueness, this travesty! Is this all modern life has come to, sirens blaring, horseless carriages clogging too-large streets? And the smell...where is the fresh breath of the trees? Where is the scent of mist rising from a pond in the early morning? *sits down in despair* I must fix this. It must be fixed. *sees someone sitting on bench reading newspaper; HDT runs over and grabs it out of their hand**

Person 2: Hey! What's wrong with you, man?!

HDT: **walks away not paying any attention and reads the headlines: The President's Cabinet is Gone??* The Cabinet resigned??? I should apply for the job, fix this monstrosity! *points to the people holding the traffic, pollution, city signs.*

Play “Several Days Later”, In a Library

HDT: **sitting at table with a tablet in front of him. Looks around and picks up a pencil. Tries writing on the iPad. Doesn't work so calls someone over** Sir, this paper is shoddy. I need another piece of paper.

Person assisting him: **picks up iPad and writes a bit** I'm afraid I don't know what you mean, sir? It's fully functioning.

HDT: **grabs the iPad and picks up the pencil to start writing**

Person: Oh no sir! Don't use the pencil on an iPad! You're going to damage it! Let me get you a stylus. Are you sure you don't need any help? **hands him stylus**

HDT: I have a Harvard education and have read all of the literary classics ranging from the Odyssey to the Vedas. I am quite capable of writing myself, thank you. **looks down at stylus, looks up at person** Where's the ink?

Person: Sir, I don't quite understand what you mean.

HDT: **Sighs and speaks to himself** People have unbelievably become even *less* educated during the last.... **counts on fingers**!

Person: **grabs pen and iPad very frustrated and looks up at Thoreau** Sir, just please state your information and I'll write it for you. We have a line and people are getting really impatient.

HDT: What is this witchcraft? From trains to inkless pencils and cursed paper?! This is preposterous... **continues muttering angrily as he fills out the form**

Play “One Week Later”, in the Oval Office

Trump: I need to have that wall, Pence! I need that wall. I need it *now*. I need it right this instant. This is hugely important, Pence, that wall, the wall is hugely important.

Pence: I think I may have a solution--

Trump: Shut up, I'm using my brain! **the radio turns on**

Radio: ...and today we'll be discussing Walden, by Henry David Thoreau--

Trump: Pence, turn that thing off! Wait a moment...Walden...that's perfect. A man who writes an entire book on the subject of walls is perfect to build my own crowning achievement in a long and illustrious life of achievements. Henry David Thoreau. Get him. I need him. Now!

Pence: That name sounds familiar. Let me look at the application papers for the Cabinet. We only had one applicant; I think it's him!

Play “Two Weeks Later”, in the Oval Office

Trump: Good morning, Mr. Thoreau. **sticks out his hand for him to shake** It's a fine morning, isn't it? Best morning. Bigly best morning.

Thoreau: **glares at him distrustfully, then quickly shakes his hand** It would be a better morning if we were standing outside.

Trump: Outside? Why would you want to go outside when you could be in here? Look. I got a bowling alley, a movie theater, an indoor golf course and a smoothie guy on retainer. And take a look around you--more marble and expensive paintings than a person could view in a lifetime. In two lifetimes. In three lifetimes. More marble than an army could view in a lifetime.

Pence: **comes into the room** Hello, Mr. Thoreau, pleased to meet you. If you would follow me and I'll give you a tour of the White House?

Thoreau: Of course. **his lips draw up as if he tasted something sour, and he sticks his nose in the air, following Pence disdainfully from the room**

Play “4 to 6 Weeks Later”, in the Oval Office

Thoreau: Nature is beautiful in every way. How can one *not* enjoy the sounds of Nature and the sight of the trees and leaves all around? There's nothing more fulfilling than being outside. The simplicity that comes with Nature leads to more peace and contemplation than money can ever buy.

Trump: All I see in nature is more land to build more hotels and businesses.

Thoreau: All I see in hotels and businesses are obstacles nature should reclaim.

Trump: Wrong. I have the best hotels--

Pence: **walks into the room** Mr. President, your private jet is here.

Thoreau: **when Trump disappears, calls out** Pretending you're a bird is an insult to our lovely, clean skies!

Play “Many Months Later”, in the Oval Office

Trump: Look, Thoreau, isn't this great? I got myself a thousand low-wage workers to build this new high rise. I get the best new building in the country, they get the privilege of working for me, and my new tenants get the privilege of living in a space designed by the greatest Donald. It's a huge win. A very huge win. It's all the best. My workers get the best, my tenants get the best, I get the best. Everyone gets the best. It's a win-win-win. Covfefe.

Thoreau: **looks at him in confusion, then shakes his head in disgust** You wish to know who loses, Trump? Nature loses. You are stomping all over her precious fields and slicing into her beautiful metals. This building is helping to wreak havoc on our earth!

Trump: **grins** I know!

Thoreau: What you don't understand is that we need the tonic of wildness to sustain our souls. At the same time that we are earnest to explore and learn all things, we require that all things be mysterious and unexplorable, that land and sea be indefinitely wild, unsurveyed and unfathomed by us. We can never have enough of nature. Heaven is under our feet as well as over our heads. We must stick close to the ground that raised us.

Trump: Huh? **stares at him for a moment** Did you just say you were raised by a ground? You were raised by a ground? He was raised by a ground?

Pence: **jumps into the room** Mr. Trump, press conference time!

Trump: **groans** I don't want to go. I don't want to go. I really don't want to go. **whining** Pence, is the press conference fake news?

Play "So Much Later that the Old"....., in a Big City

Person 1: Wow election season is almost over already! I have absolutely no idea who I'm going to vote for, and the elections are in two days!

Person 2: Well, I know who I'm voting for.

Person 1: Oh yeah? Who?

Person 2: **grins and shrugs** Obviously Trump. His ideas about revolutionizing technology can make us all rich!

Person 1: **thinks for a moment** Yeah, I understand that, but is that really what our country needs? He's cutting down forests for his own living space! Entire forests! Pretty soon all of America will just be cities and towns and everything manmade; our next generation won't even know about our beautiful natural parks and forests. I don't want that for my kids. I want them to be able to go camping out in the Smokies like I did when I was young.

Person 2: **starting to get angry** But why does that even matter? With Trump's economic plans, you're going to be so rich you can fly your kids out to the Amazon for a night of camping.

Person 1: **voice also rising** There's no guarantee his plans will even *work*. And besides, I don't want my kids to camp in the Amazon! I want them to camp in our own lovely national parks and in my own backyard, just like kids have done for hundreds of years. I'm not willing to sacrifice that just so my fridge will automatically cook my dinners. I think I've decided. I'm voting for Thoreau.

Person 2: **shakes his head in anger and disgust** You're just being ignorant to the possibilities of a great future. **leaves in a huff**

Play "Two Days Later in a News Studio" *Cue News Music

Newscaster 1: Welcome to the Fox News Network political hour. Well, it's time for another presidential election! These past three years sure have been a rollercoaster. What are your opinions about Trump's time in office?

Newscaster 2: The lack of collaboration between such starkly different individuals was truly appalling. There have been quite a few rumors from WH-insiders that say they had their fair share of disagreements. Especially with the giant divide in the country. It's amazing that riots haven't broken out already in battleground states.

Newscaster 3: It really is! Their ideals are so different! Thoreau represents one side of the coin and Trump the other. There is no common ground.

Newscaster 4: If only they had sorted out their differences and found a healthy medium.

Newscaster 2: It makes me wonder. What would have happened if they met in the middle? If they found that balance? **trails off*. There is a moment of silence as the newscasters think*

Newscaster 3: Our national parks would have strong, consistent funding and maintenance, per Thoreau's wishes. The visitor centers would be state of the art and elegant, per Trump's wishes.

Newscaster 2: Yeah! Imagine how much better our country could have been. Nature would have continued to flourish, while we surpassed other nations with our technological and economical advances.

Newscaster 3: Just think. If it weren't for Thoreau stripping funding from our engineers, we could have beaten the Chinese to Mars. We could be in control of the robotics market, not buying our retail workers from Japan.

Newscaster 2: But if Trump hadn't backed out of the Paris Climate Accords, we would have double the fertile farmland that we have today and wouldn't rank dead last in terms of breathable air.

Newscaster 3: I guess it's pretty clear. It's the dusk of Trump's first term, and America has finally realized that we can't find success through the extreme materialism or extreme naturalism displayed in our leadership. Our only path to success is found in the center, in the balance between our strongest beliefs.

Recording studio still, Praneet leaves, Shreya and Hava change into HDT/Trump clothes

Newscaster 2: ... And the election results are finally in. The president of 2020 is.... *have audience do drumroll* KANYE WEST

Kanye storms in while Trump and Thoreau leave

END